

and the livestock market would be more susceptible to devastation. Therefore, we must continue to develop new treatments and quickly bring them to market, but we cannot do that without the speedy approval of the FDA.

I am particularly concerned about the food and medicine supply of this country. This commitment to safety that we are showing today through this legislation starts with the FDA's examination and approval of new pharmaceuticals and continues as these legal drugs are manufactured and distributed throughout the Nation. Commitment to safety must always be a part of the system.

The benefits of this bill are substantial, and, therefore, I am very pleased to cosponsor the bill. Vote yes on H.R. 1260, the Animal Drug User Fee Act.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, animal medicines are used to assist livestock producers raising and maintaining healthy, high quality stock and ultimately, in delivering safe and wholesome food to American dinner tables. They are also used to keep pets healthy, which contributes to the quality of life for millions of companion animal owners.

The Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) is currently experiencing unprecedented delays in its review of new product submissions. The delays are severe and problematic for the submission sponsors, for CVM, and for veterinarians, livestock and poultry producers, and pet owners in need of new and innovative products to combat animal disease—at a time when animal disease around the world is capturing headlines. The deadlock at the Center also has a chilling effect on the animal health industry's investment in important research and development, threatening the pipeline of products that will be important to livestock and poultry producers in managing their production in the future. The lack of these tools imperils not only animal health but also has implications for the food supply and food safety.

In 1966 Congress, with industry support, enacted the Animal Drug Availability Act to streamline drug review and approval procedures. Contrary to Congressional intent and despite additional resources, it is now more difficult than ever to get new products approved. Unfortunately, this situation is detrimental to veterinarians, to livestock and poultry producers, to food producers and to the public. As a result, it is important for Congress and the Administration to take action to ensure that the CVM can better manage its resources and personnel and make institutional changes to fulfill its mandated mission and responsibilities.

Modeled after the successful Prescription Drug User Fee Act, the Animal Drug User Fee Act will increase efficiencies in review times for new animal pharmaceuticals by providing CVM with additional resources to allow for improved communication between FDA and product sponsors and more expeditious FDA actions on applications.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Congressman UPTON for his leadership and that of the full Committee on Energy and Commerce for bringing this important legislation to the floor today and urge all Members to support it.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1260.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING FORT DETRICK ON 60 YEARS OF SERVICE TO U.S.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 271) congratulating Fort Detrick on 60 years of service to the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 271

Whereas April 10, 2003, was the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Army installation in Frederick, Maryland, named Fort Detrick;

Whereas Fort Detrick is designated as an Army Medical Installation and is home to the United States Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC), one of two campuses of the National Cancer Institute (NCI-Frederick), and 36 other organizations of the Department of Defense and other Federal departments;

Whereas the primary missions of the organizations at Fort Detrick include biomedical research and development, medical materiel management, and global telecommunications;

Whereas throughout that installation's 60-year history, the personnel and organizations assigned to that installation have contributed scientific breakthroughs and medical solutions for the Armed Forces and the Nation;

Whereas Fort Detrick is a focal point for the Nation's biomedical scientific leadership and has contributed extensively to protecting and improving public health in the United States;

Whereas Fort Detrick has been home to preeminent researchers in bacteriology, microbiology, clinical and preventative medicine, biochemistry, neurology, botany, virology, and genomics;

Whereas the research program at Fort Detrick was a pioneer in the laboratory facility designs, equipment, and procedures that are used for infectious disease research in laboratories worldwide;

Whereas researchers at Fort Detrick have improved public health throughout the world through the creation of botulinum antibodies, which have been used to treat both infant and adult victims of botulism;

Whereas the Venezuelan equine encephalitis vaccines, which were created at Fort Detrick, have been used to control human and animal outbreaks of Venezuelan equine encephalitis, and the Rift Valley Fever vaccines, which were also created at Fort Detrick, have been used to protect people in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and other countries who are at high risk of Rift Valley Fever;

Whereas, on January 27, 1969, the Office of the Surgeon General of the Army established the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as the "Insti-

tute"), which is located at Fort Detrick and is the Department of Defense's lead laboratory for medical aspects of biological warfare defense;

Whereas when outbreaks of hantaviral disease began in the southwestern United States in 1993, the Institute was called upon by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and by various State health departments for consultations;

Whereas when the Ebola virus was first carried to the shores of the United States in late 1989 by a primate colony found in Reston, Virginia, it was researchers at the Institute who diagnosed and contained the outbreak;

Whereas the Institute also played a key role in the identification of and response to the initial outbreak of West Nile virus in New York;

Whereas the Institute continues its life-saving work by collaborating with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health on the development of diagnostics and the evaluation of antiviral drugs for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome;

Whereas the Institute created a vaccine against hemorrhagic fever in the 1980s, which has possibly saved thousands of lives in Argentina, including the lives of agricultural workers at risk for exposure to this hemorrhagic fever virus;

Whereas the Institute was the only Federal laboratory to maintain a continuous diagnostic reference capability on a 24-hour per day basis after the attacks of September 11, 2001, and provided expertise in medical diagnostics and decontamination that was key to ensuring that congressional office buildings were safe to reoccupy after the anthrax mail attacks in the fall of 2001;

Whereas leading vaccine candidates for anthrax, plague, tularemia, and botulinum neurotoxins were all originally developed at the Institute;

Whereas the basic research program at the Institute is responsible for some of the most promising medical countermeasures against the leading biological threats that are on the "A" List of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

Whereas the Institute has established a partnership with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health to collaborate and accelerate biodefense research that will protect all Americans against the threat of biological and chemical attacks by terrorists;

Whereas in 1974, the United States Army Medical Materiel Agency was relocated to Fort Detrick and the Navy, Air Force, and Army all now conduct medical logistics planning and management at Fort Detrick in support of global military operations;

Whereas the Foreign Disease-Weed Science Research Unit of the Agricultural Research Service of the Department of Agriculture has conducted high-priority research in the Plant Pathogen Containment Facility at Fort Detrick for over 30 years, providing the agricultural community with basic epidemiological information and rapid diagnostic assays for exotic threatening and emerging crop diseases, such as Karnal bunt of wheat, soybean rust, potato late blight, and plum pox virus;

Whereas Company B, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, United States Marine Corps Reserve, which has been assigned to Fort Detrick since October 1987, had a mission of reconnaissance and security in support of a Marine Air/Ground Task Force and received the Meritorious Unit Citation for its service during Operation Desert Storm;

Whereas the Army's 1108th Signal Brigade at Fort Detrick provides important strategic

communication support to the White House and the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and

Whereas the National Cancer Institute-Frederick at Fort Detrick, one of two campuses of the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health, is an internationally recognized center for scientific excellence in the prevention, detection, and treatment of cancer and AIDS: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) congratulates Fort Detrick, Maryland, on 60 years of service to the Nation; and

(2) commends the military and civilian personnel of the Army, other elements of the Department of Defense, and other Federal departments and agencies who have worked diligently at Fort Detrick since its founding—

(A) to defend the United States against biological and chemical attack; and

(B) to develop vaccines for all types of illnesses.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As the cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 271, I rise to congratulate Fort Detrick on 60 years of outstanding service to our Nation. Fort Detrick, located in Frederick, Maryland, employs men and women who are among the Nation's most preeminent researchers in bacteriology, microbiology, clinical and preventive medicine, biochemistry, neurology, botany, virology, and genomics. These scientists and technicians have an unparalleled record protecting the men and women in America's Armed Forces from the scourge of biowarfare.

They have also led the world's fight against many infectious diseases. Today workers at Fort Detrick are helping to protect and improve the health of all Americans, as well as people around the world.

During the height of World War II, in 1943, scientists converged at Camp Detrick when the War Department began to address the threat of biological warfare. In 1956, the U.S. Army Medical Unit was formed to develop medical countermeasures which included rapid and effective diagnostic and identification procedures. Throughout the Cold War, Fort Detrick developed and matured many of the standard protocols and technology utilized in biomedical research.

In 1969, the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases,

USAMRIID, was established to continue America's defense against biological agents.

Of today's top six biological threats, the CDC's "A" list, the leading candidate countermeasures for at least five of the six have come from the basic research program at USAMRIID. Leading vaccine candidates for anthrax, plague, and neurotoxins were all originally developed at USAMRIID. The technology used to develop a new smallpox vaccine was first demonstrated at USAMRIID. The National Cancer Institute-Frederick is an internationally recognized center for scientific excellence in the prevention, detection, and treatment of cancer and AIDS. Three billion dollars in congressionally directed research into breast and prostate cancer have been done at the NCI, which is located at Fort Detrick.

Fort Detrick is also a home of the 1108th Signal Brigade, the U.S. Army Medical Material Agency, and the 4th Light Armored Vehicle Battalion of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. The Foreign Disease-Weed Science Research Unit of the Department of Agriculture is also located at Fort Detrick and has conducted high-priority research in exotic threatening and emerging crop diseases for over 30 years.

The National Institutes of Health will be constructing an integrated biomedical research facility at the post to support the biodefense mission of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. The Department of Homeland Security is considering joining NIAID and USAMRIID in an expanded biodefense campus at Fort Detrick. Fort Detrick is the logical location because of the 60-year record of accomplishments, the existing facilities and the productive partnerships already in place between the military and many civilian agencies of the Federal Government.

Fort Detrick is a focal point for America's biomedical scientific leadership. I congratulate all of the thousands of former and current employees for their outstanding service to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. ORTIZ asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) in support of this resolution and urge my colleagues to support it as well.

Fort Detrick is one of the most important lines of defense should we ever be attacked with a chemical or biological weapon. Since 1969, it has been our Nation's lead laboratory for the medical aspects of biological warfare defense.

□ 1215

The September 11 attacks used civilian airplanes as weapons of mass de-

struction; but it raises the specter of a terrorist attack that would use a chemical, biological, or nuclear weapon against us. I hope such an attack never occurs; but if it does, the men and women of Fort Detrick are devoted to improving the ways to quickly detect the use of chemical or biological weapons, halt the spread of chemical and biological agents as quickly as possible, and treat the victims of the attack.

But the mission of Fort Detrick goes beyond just protecting against chemical or biological attack. Fort Detrick has played a leading role in protecting our Nation and other nations against all types of infectious diseases. They helped identify the West Nile Virus several summers ago, and they created a vaccine in the 1980s that probably saved the lives of thousands of Argentinians from an agricultural virus. Fort Detrick has been a world leader in research of microbiology, biochemistry, botany, and other scientific disciplines that are necessary to understanding how to detect and treat lethal viruses.

Fort Detrick also serves as home to one of the two campuses of the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health. This NIH campus is internationally recognized for its contribution to cancer and AIDS research.

The mission of Fort Detrick goes beyond research as well. Since 1974, all medical logistical support of global military operations is planned and managed by Fort Detrick. This is an extremely important mission as our troops are flung worldwide in the global war on terrorism. And as my good friend, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT), mentioned, the Army's 1108th Signal Brigade at Fort Detrick provides strategic communications support to the White House and the joint chiefs.

This is just a symbol of the accomplishments and missions of Fort Detrick, not an inventory of what they do. They do a great job.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate my good friend, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT), for bringing this resolution to the floor.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, as Congressman from Maryland's Second Congressional district home to Aberdeen and Fort Meade . . . I know what it means to represent our brave military men and women who continue to defend this nation abroad and here at home.

Many who protect us do so with weapons . . . and many protect us in otherways. . .

Fort Detrick is the premier military base for medical and biological research. The men and women that work at the Detrick have led the way in infectious disease and chemical warfare research.

Detrick began as a chemical research facility housing the research branch of The Army Chemical Warfare Service. It is also the home

to the Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center (AFMIC).

Detrick is also home to U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Disease (USAMRIID). These state of the art laboratories are continuing to develop vaccines and treatments to defend against offensive bio-weapons. USAMRIID also has a large staff dedicated to finding cures for cancer.

I am proud that the United States has dedicated a military base to these problems and I am proud it is in the my home state of Maryland. It is imperative in this day of terrorism to be prepared for the new chemical and biological weapons. Today I am happy to honor the 60 years of research that Detrick has provided for the National Security of this Nation.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 271, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: "Concurrent resolution congratulating Fort Detrick, Maryland, on 60 years of service to the Nation."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2691, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2691), making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. DICKS

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. DICKS moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 2691 be instructed to provide an additional \$400,000,000 of emergency funding for fiscal year 2003 forest fire suppression costs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. TAYLOR) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

(Mr. DICKS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This motion would instruct the conferees to agree to the additional \$400 million of emergency firefighting funds in the Senate version of the fiscal year 2004 interior appropriations. These funds are desperately needed to repay the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service accounts that have been emptied to fight forest fires during the current fiscal year. We need this additional money. In fact, the agencies estimate that we need \$171 million more than was provided by the Senate.

The decision of Chairman BURNS in the Senate to add an additional \$400 million was in response to new agency estimates that show a shortfall of \$860 million for fire. While the other body's amount does not fully address the problem, it would go a long way towards repaying the construction and land acquisition accounts of these agencies that have been pillaged, all because the administration did not request enough to fight fires.

My colleagues from the West understand this problem all too well, but I hope everyone is aware that other areas beyond the West face similar fire risks from record low rainfall. The National Fire Center reports that as of today, more than 3.1 million acres have burned. Nineteen large fires are still burning, affecting more than 350,000 acres.

The Forest Service and the BLM have already spent the money; they had no choice. But unlike other agencies, FEMA, for example, that get reimbursed, the Forest Service and BLM are forced to cancel construction projects, land acquisition, reforestation programs in our national forests, endangered species work, processing of grazing fees, and many other activities. These agencies simply cannot function and cannot do the work Congress directs them to do if year after year their accounts are drained for fires that we already know will occur, and if Congress does not reimburse these accounts.

In 2002, the Forest Service and BLM spent nearly \$1.2 billion fighting fires. The administration requested repayment of \$825 million, leaving \$334 million still owed to the Forest Service and the BLM. This borrowing is over the amounts that Congress had previously appropriated. This cannot happen again and again. These cuts have real impacts and, in some cases, only compound the problems we have in our forests if the agencies do not have the money to do the thinnings and fuel-load reduction work that is necessary to avoid fire risk in the first place.

We all know this money is needed and that it is needed now. The conference should agree to the additional \$400 million added by the Senate. I urge a "yes" vote on this motion.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I sympathize with the comments of my good friend, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS). We have had a hard fire season this year. We just passed \$289 million, the President just signed it yesterday, so we have added that amount in. We are working with the administration on the new amount, and I have no objection to the recommendation the gentleman has to the committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. DICKS. So when this comes back up, I have to be here to ask for a recorded vote?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. At that point the Chair will put the question *de novo*.

Mr. DICKS. I thank the Chair.

□ 1230

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for 10 minutes.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess for 10 minutes.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore at 12 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.